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The purpose of this article is to analyse the category of time in some autobiographical works of Pio Baroja (*El árbol de la ciencia; Familia, infancia, juventud; Juventud, egolatría; La sensualidad pervertida*), in which the author recalls his childhood and youth. In these books we can see that Pio Baroja, since his childhood, shows interest in sensational and criminal matters. Venturing into dangerous neighbourhoods, the future writer quite often becomes witness to executions or listens with interest to comments on some shocking crimes. Baroja, in his memories, tries to depict the ambience of the time of his childhood, which he calls the time of vice or crime, the time of “chaos”. These early experiences leave their imprint on the characteristic literary style of Baroja. In many of his novels the world is presented as a series of single episodes and the created characters come from the social margin.

Baroja’s attitude towards the problem of death, oscillating between indifference and curiosity, is very specific. Probably, the experience of witnessing executions and participating in dissections are the reasons of his detachment to the problem of death.

Baroja starts to be interested in social and political issues at quite an early age, which is reflected in his memories. However, the author focuses mainly on some sensational incidents, stories overheard in the streets or read in the newspapers. That is why, sometimes, the time depicted by him is called „folletinesco” (sensational).